

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend claims 1 and 18-25, as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A vessel, comprising:
a frame; and
a bay disposed in the frame and operable to receive a mission module operable to provide mission-specific functionality to the vessel while disposed in the bay.
2. (Original) The vessel of claim 1, further comprising an interface operable to be coupled between the frame and the mission module.
3. (Original) The vessel of claim 2 wherein the interface is operable to facilitate the exchange of fuel between the frame and the module.
4. (Original) The vessel of claim 2 wherein the interface is operable to facilitate the exchange of water between the frame and the module.
5. (Original) The vessel of claim 2 wherein the interface is operable to facilitate the exchange of personnel between the frame and the module.
6. (Original) The vessel of claim 2 wherein the interface is operable to facilitate the exchange of electrical power between the frame and the module.
7. (Original) The vessel of claim 2 wherein the interface is operable to facilitate transmission of electronic communication signals between the frame and the mission module.

8. (Original) The vessel of claim 1 wherein the frame comprises a foil-assisted twin hull.
9. (Withdrawn) The vessel of claim 1 wherein the frame comprises a landing pad for an aerial vehicle.
10. (Withdrawn) A mission module, comprising
a body operable to be received by a vessel;
a substantially self-contained mission-module system; and
an interface that facilitates communication between the vessel and the mission module system.
11. (Withdrawn) The mission module of claim 10 wherein the mission-module system comprises a substantially self-contained remote mine-hunting system.
12. (Withdrawn) The mission module of claim 10 wherein the mission-module system comprises a substantially self-contained littoral anti-submarine system.
13. (Withdrawn) The mission module of claim 10 wherein the mission-module system comprises a substantially self-contained special operation support system.
14. (Withdrawn) The mission module of claim 10 wherein the mission-module system comprises a substantially self-contained logistics support system.
15. (Withdrawn) The mission module of claim 10 wherein the mission module system comprises a substantially self-contained maritime intercept system.

16. (Withdrawn) The mission module of claim 10 wherein the mission module system comprises a substantially self-contained intelligence/surveillance/reconnaissance system.

17. (Withdrawn) The mission module of claim 10, further comprising:
a propulsion system; and
a remote control device operable to communicate with the vessel such that the vessel controls the propulsion and maneuvering systems to facilitate acquisition of the mission module by the vessel.

18. (Currently Amended) A vessel, comprising:
a bay operable to receive a mission module; and
an interface operable to facilitate the coupling of the mission module to the vessel, the module operable to provide mission-specific functionality to the vessel while disposed in the bay.

19. (Currently Amended) A vessel system, comprising
a vessel;
a bay disposed in the vessel; and
a mission module disposed in the bay and operable to provide mission-specific functionality to the vessel while disposed in the bay.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19 wherein the mission module ~~comprises a substantially self-contained remote mine hunting system~~ is configured to perform anti-mine warfare.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19 wherein the mission module is configured to perform ~~comprises a substantially self-contained littoral anti-submarine system~~ warfare.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19 wherein the mission module is configured to perform ~~comprises a substantially self-contained special operation support system.~~

23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19 wherein the mission module is configured to perform ~~comprises a substantially self-contained logistics support system.~~

24. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19 wherein the mission module is configured to perform a ~~comprises a substantially self-contained maritime intercept system~~function.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 19 wherein the mission module is configured to perform an ~~comprises a substantially self-contained intelligence/surveillance/reconnaissance system~~function.

26. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 19 wherein the vessel comprises an aircraft.

27. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 19 wherein the vessel comprises a land vehicle.

28. (Original) The system of claim 19 wherein the vessel comprises a sailing ship.

29. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 19 wherein the vessel comprises a space ship.

30. (Withdrawn) A method for manufacturing a vessel, the method comprising

forming a frame having a bay operable to receive one of a plurality of different types of mission modules; and

forming an interface disposed in the bay that is operable to facilitate the coupling between each one of the plurality of different types of mission modules and the frame.